



## **The Outdoor Children's Play Space**

**An important amenity for downtown's families**

## Downtown St. Paul



This map shows the boundaries of Saint Paul's 17<sup>th</sup> district.

- Downtown is the city's government and business hub.  
78,000 employees work downtown every day .
- Downtown is the city's arts and entertainment district.  
More than 4 million people visit every year.

Source: "State of Downtown" report, Capital City Partnership, 2009

### Notes

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## A Residential Neighborhood



Downtown is the fastest growing residential neighborhood in the city.

- In the past 10 years, downtown has experienced a 49% increase in total number of housing units and a 38% increase in residents.
- An additional 725 housing units are currently proposed or being developed, which will add an estimated 972 residents.

*Source: "State of Downtown" report, Capital City Partnership, 2009*

### Notes

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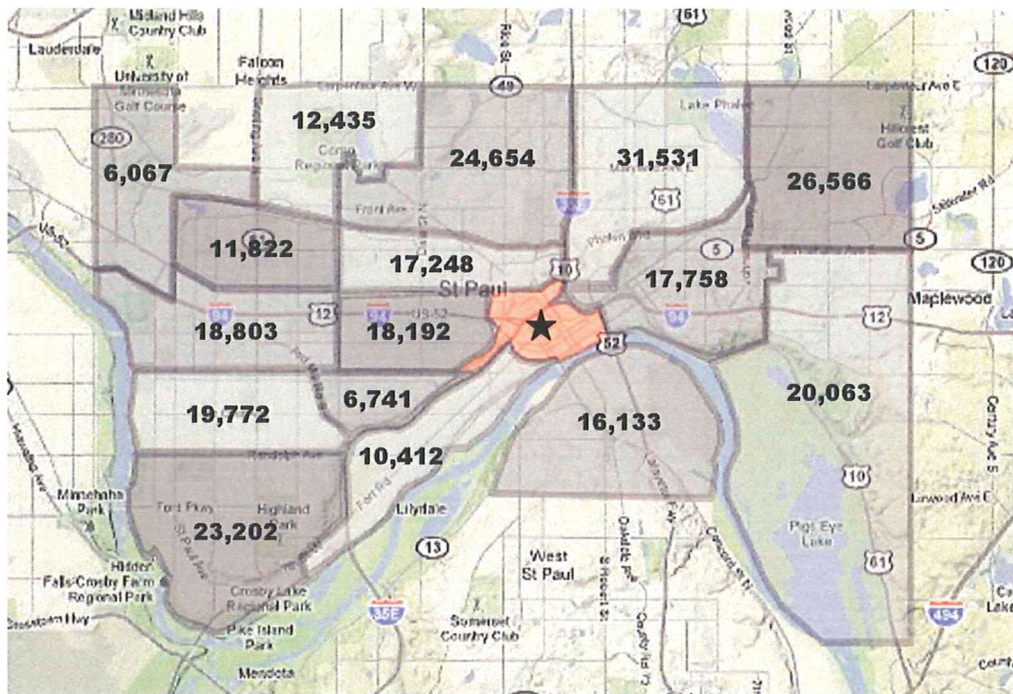
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# Residential populations by district



13,348 people call downtown home – more than in 5 other districts.

*The most recent population data available was used.  
Sources: Wilder Foundation, staff of each district council.*

## Notes

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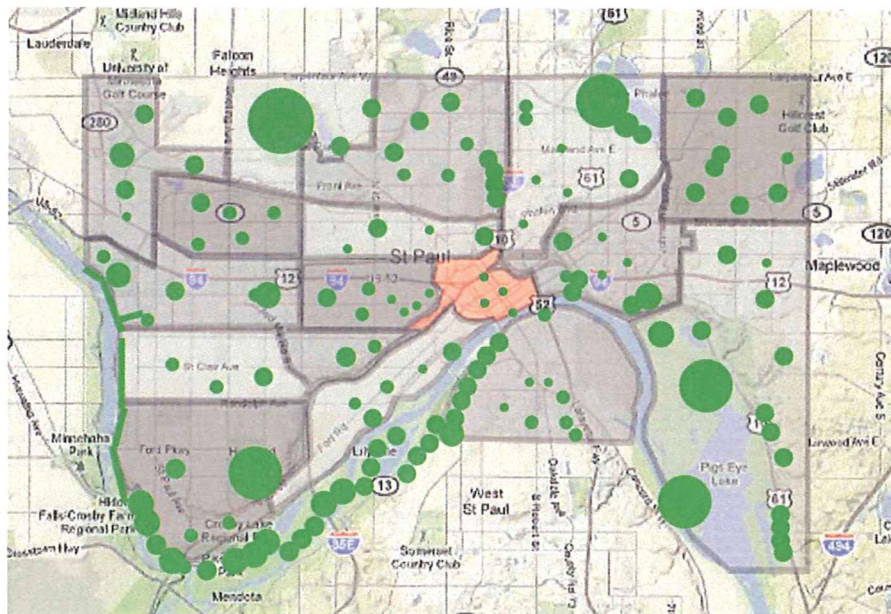
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# Park space by district



## Notes

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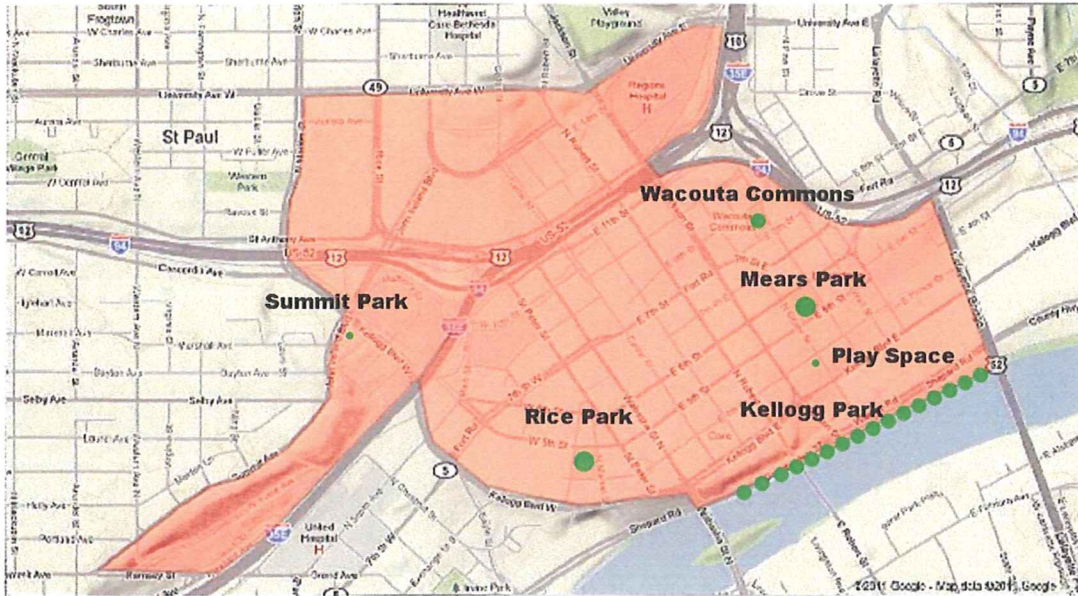
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# Downtown's Park Space



This map shows the parks located in district 17:

- Rice Park
- Mears Park
- Wacouta Commons Park
- Summit Park
- Kellogg Park
- Children's Outdoor Play Space

## Notes

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## Downtown's Park Space



Downtown's parks anchor our community and provide space for community celebrations.

Mears, Rice, Summit, and Kellogg Parks feature open green space, gardens, fountains, statues and monuments.

Wacouta Commons Park is the only park to feature playground equipment, but it is geared toward older kids.

### Notes

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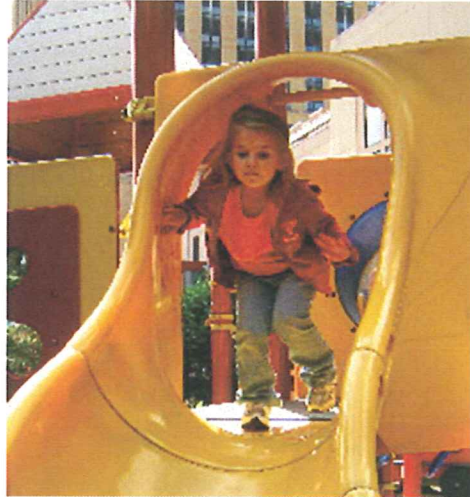
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## The Outdoor Children's Play Space



- The only park downtown with a focus on young children.
- Features train cars and a two story ship as play equipment, and an original mural on the side of an adjacent building as its backdrop.
- Loved and used for 17 years by downtown residents, employees, visitors, schools and daycare centers.
- Testimonial from one downtown employee:  
*"My son is now 18 years old, but when he was 2, 3, and 4, we had him enrolled in day care downtown. I loved to pick him up for my lunch hour and take him to this wonderful park. We would eat lunch together and he would play – it was very special. Having this safe, fun playground right in downtown was one of the reasons we chose this day care center; and spending my lunch break with him was the highlight of my day."*

### Notes

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## Repairs Needed



- Rubber ground surface is torn and damaged in several places  
*Currently poses a safety hazard*
- Wooden play equipment is splintered and broken in several places  
*Currently poses a safety hazard*
- Waterfall mural needs restoration
- Plants and landscaping need maintenance

### Notes

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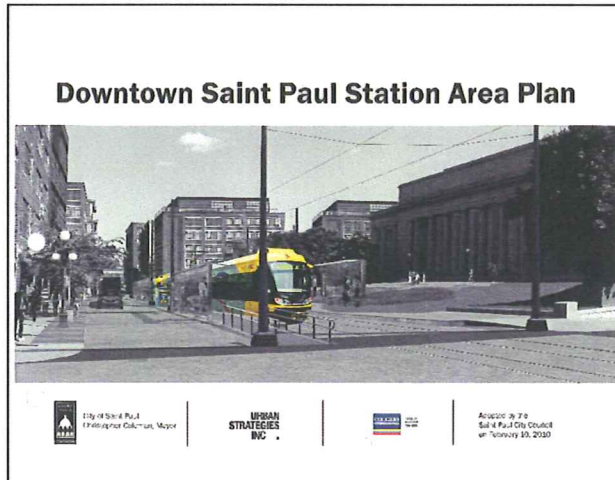
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## The City has Prioritized this Project



Repairs and maintenance to the Children's Outdoor Play Space are included in the City's Downtown Station Area Plan and Comprehensive Plan:

"The Children's Play Space on the southwest corner of 4<sup>th</sup>/Sibley, now 17 years old, requires significant investment to replace the rubber surfacing, repair or replace the play equipment, repaint the public art on the wall, and replace landscaping."

- *Downtown Saint Paul Station Area Plan, Page 40*

### Notes

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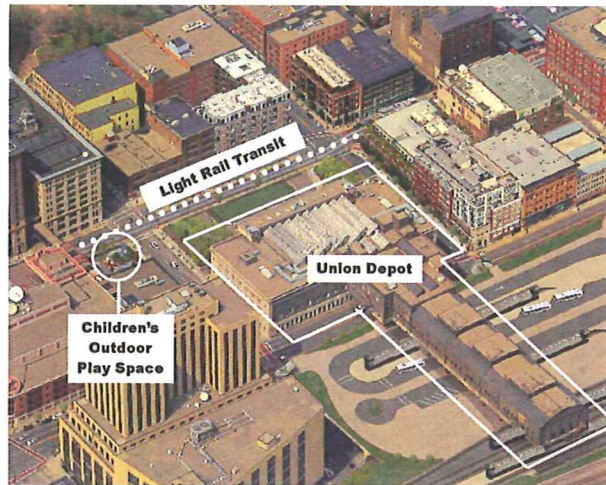
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## Long Range Impact



Now is the perfect time for our city to invest in the Play Space, as it is located within feet of the city and county's largest and most influential current development projects: Light Rail Transit and the Union Depot.

Streetscape enhancements will be implemented along 4<sup>th</sup> Street in relation to these projects, and improvements to the Play Space will compliment this work and add to the vitality of the neighborhood.

### Notes

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February 24, 2011

Ms. Sabaka and members of the Capital Improvement Budget Task Force and Committee:

On behalf of the Cosmopolitan Apartments I am writing to express support for the Capital Improvement Budget application from CapitolRiver Council for funds to make repairs and improvements to the Outdoor Children's Play Space at 4<sup>th</sup> & Sibley Streets in Lowertown.

We offer the park to potential tenants, as a selling point. It is hard enough to draw families to an urban area without offering an unsafe and unsightly toddler park. It just isn't congruous with Lowertown's efforts to appeal to all familial statuses. Let's send a positive message to the community at large by saving this little park.

Thank you,

Tresa Garr

*Member of the MADACS Award Winning Team*

*for Exemplary Community Service Programs 2010*

Pinnacle, An American Management Services Company

The Cosmopolitan Apartments

*An historic landmark celebrating 100 years in 2011*

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Katie Sabaka  
CapitolRiver Council  
101 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 240  
St. Paul, MN 55101

February 28, 2011

Ms. Sabaka and members of the Capital Improvement Budget Task Force and Committee:

On behalf of the Galtier Towers Apartments, I am writing to express support for the Capital Improvement Budget application from CapitolRiver Council for funds to make repairs and improvements to the Outdoor Children's Play Space at 4<sup>th</sup> & Sibley Streets in Lowertown.

This Play Space is a very important amenity to the downtown neighborhood. My building uses it as a selling point to potential tenants, and our residents use it with their families and guests.

The Play Space's damaged equipment currently poses a safety hazard for those who use it, and in order to remain a neighborhood amenity and draw for future residents it must be repaired.

The proposed project will be beneficial to downtown Saint Paul, and we urge its completion.

Thank you,

Shauna Colbeth; Property Manager  
Galtier Towers Apartments



Katie Sabaka  
CapitolRiver Council  
101 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 240  
St. Paul, MN 55101

February 24, 2011

Ms. Sabaka and members of the Capital Improvement Budget Task Force and Committee:

On behalf of Mears Park Place Apartments, I am writing to express support for the Capital Improvement Budget application from CapitolRiver Council for funds to make repairs and improvements to the Outdoor Children's Play Space at 5<sup>th</sup> & Sibley Streets in Lowertown.

This Play Space is a very important amenity to the downtown neighborhood. My building uses it as a selling point to potential tenants, and our residents use it with their families and guests.

The Play Space's damaged equipment currently poses a safety hazard for those who use it, and in order to remain a neighborhood amenity and draw for future residents it must be repaired.

The proposed project will be beneficial to downtown Saint Paul, and we urge its completion.

Thank you,

Gloria J. Tollefson  
Property Manager  
Mears Park Place Apartments

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